

* * * * *

PUBLIC MEETING

held by

THE SECRETARY OF THE STATES' OFFICE

OF ARKANSAS

AT 3:00 P.M.

* * * * *

GARLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

101 COLLEGE DRIVE

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

71913

* * * * *

PRESENT:

TIM HUMPHRIES, SECRETARY OF STATES OFFICE

LARRY CRANE, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

OLAN REEVES, CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GREG KIRKPATRICK, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

* * * * *

ALSO PRESENT:

PUBLIC SIGN IN SHEET

ATTACHED AT BACK OF TRANSCRIPT

* * * * *

COURT REPORTER:

LAURA L. CARNAHAN, CCR

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

* * * * *

P R O C E E D I N G S

THEREUPON,

MR. REEVES: It is 3:00. I'm Butch Reeves, from the Governors Office. We have other people representing all three board members. Tim Humphries, from Sharon Priests' Office, Larry Crane, from the Attorney Generals' Office, and then Greg Kirkpatrick, from the Governors' Office is here, too. These are all -- those are the three (3) Board Members who will be making the decision about drawing the House and Senate district lines, where to stagger it, for that same function.

The purpose of these meetings is to come around the state, find out, in your district, what you like, what you don't like. 'Cause, basically, here, we want to know what y'all think about multi-member district, 'cause you still have some of the -- (INAUDIBLE) left, and you're one of them. Whether you like 'em or don't like 'em. You know, whatever other comments you want to make.

So, briefly, we want to show you about how the process is going to work.

We have a web page set up. Redistricting Office of Little Rock, that's our web site. They have a lot of information on it. It has legal cases, supreme

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

court guidelines that we will have to follow. It has stuff about all of us. Our names, e-mail addresses, phone numbers. If you need to get in touch with us.

Ron Sheffield is the actual administrator of the Reducing Office in Little Rock. His phone number and address is on there, as well. So, if you need to send him something you can e-mail, you can post comments that you want someone to read. You can do that, as well. Trustee little photos. We also have on the web site a calendar. The time line that all this happens.

The Census Bureau will give us the numbers -- Census numbers, they said, by March 31st of next year. It could be the first week of March; it could be the last week of March. At least, by April 1st we'll have those numbers. They will be loaded into the computer. See, there's the date, April 1, Federal deadline. We've targeted October 1, as the date to have all this finished. That's just our targeted date. That's not a statutorial requirement.

And so, the time line is going to be, March, get the numbers, April and early May, work on the plan, have a draft proposal plan. Come back out to the state in these type of meetings. The plan will be posted on the web site. You can look at it. Look at what you

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

-- what's going to happen to Hot Springs, Clark, Garland, counties around this area, tell us what you think. We will come to your town, or your area, maybe not this building, with a proposed plan that will be on the web site. You can critique it, we'll go back to the Board. The Board will meet in September, hopefully, and vote on a plan. So, you'll really have two (2) more opportunities to tell us what you think. One, after the draft proposal has been made out, and then, one right before the Board.

Now, at the meetings we have, let's say, next May and June, the last time in '91, the Board did make changes after public comment, after the draft plan. So, don't think it's a done deal just because you see the draft plan. It's not a done deal until the Board votes on it. There were some changes made, voices heard loud and clear. The Board changed it. There were some changes not made, that they wanted made. That meeting will be in Little Rock, sometime in September. Announced news releases and over our web site.

The '91 House and Senate districts are also on our web site. You can pull those up and look at them.

This time, the Census Bureau is going to give us

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

the numbers on Precincts -- by Precincts, as recorded by your county to the Federal Census Bureau. Your county reported what your Precincts were, to the Federal Government. That's the numbers we'll get. We will actually have the numbers down to the block level, but they'll be reported to us, and that's what we'll be using, Precincts instead of Townships. In '91 they used Townships. Townships really don't mean as much as they used to, so I know Precincts make up -- within the Townships. But the Precincts is what we're going to be using, which is a much smaller base, if you will, of what this -- idea is.

The guidelines that we will use have not actually been established, other than the ones the Supreme Court says we have to use, such as: the communities of interest should be kept together; compactness, how compact is the district as opposed to spread out and strung out; what the people have in common within the districts. Encompassing is something we will take into account; it's not one of the top five (5), but it is something we take into account. Term limits will help us somewhat on that, but we do want to know what you think about the districts around your county.

So, the -- the numbers that you have on the --

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

should be given you the house of Senate Districts, as they currently exist, this was printed off of my computer program, these are July 1999 best guess estimates by the Census Bureau. The percentages are probably fairly accurate, but the numbers may be a little different when they actually come out in April. So, you can look at that guess, but to say that's going to be as accurate as it's going to get, probably not. The census numbers will be much shorter. Yes, Ma'am?

MS. BROWN: This is Twila -- I'm Twila Brown. These -- these numbers are total population and not adult?

MR. REEVES: That's total population.

MS. BROWN: And the numbers that you worked with on this reapportionment are going to be total population, rather than --

MR. REEVES: Total population.

MS. BROWN: -- than (INAUDIBLE) --

MR. REEVES: We work on population numbers.

MS. BROWN: -- than possible voters? Okay.

MR. REEVES: We -- we have that information, but we use population numbers.

MS. BROWN: Okay.

MR. REEVES: The current House District is about

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

twenty-three, four (23,400) something, twenty-three, five (23,500), twenty-three thousand, five hundred (23,500). The projected is a little over twenty-five (25,000) plus, twenty-five thousand (25,000) plus. The current Senate District is -- is about sixty-seven (67,000) plus, the next time we think it will be about seventy-two thousand (72,000). So -- a little over seventy-two thousand (72,000). So, you can kind of look at your current districts and figure out, have you grown enough to go twenty-three, four (23,400) to twenty-five (25,000), and from sixty-seven (67,000) to seventy-two (72,000), to kind of get an idea. There may be some total changes, based on what we hear from y'all today about the multi-member districts, and about other districts surrounding Garland County and the Hot Spring area, but that's, basically, what we're going to be working with when we get those numbers. It tells us, black, white, Hispanic, in fact, there's a whole bunch of races on there. Male, female, the Census Bureau breaks it all down for us. Tim will kind of show y'all that in a little bit. Tim if you want to go ahead and talk about the computers.

MR. HUMPHRIES: We don't do this by hands; we -- this process has been computerized in Arkansas,

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

beginning with the '91 redistricting. And the software that we're going to use this time is -- is far advanced over what we had available to us even then. This is called Autobound Redistricting Software. For those of you who know anything about -- well, it's called GIS Software, it runs on a Arkview platform, and it's a product of ESRI Corporation, E-S-R-I. If there are any -- are there any members of county election commissions or any other county officials here?

PUBLIC: (SOME RAISE HANDS).

MR. HUMPHRIES: We're going to have components -- or, -- or, -- or, workstations that will contain this software available that we can help local election officials, local Boards of -- of election, to help them draw they're local district lines in their counties. So, that's something that we're pretty sure that we're going to have available. We'll be in contact with you more about that at some time goes by. But, that's a big chore for the election commission. I mean, they have to draw anywhere from nine (9) to eleven (11) JP Districts in their counties. It's a tedious and a very hard process without this computer stuff, so, we want to make that available out there to everybody.

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

As Butch said, we're -- the Precinct is going to be our -- our basic building block. In '91 the Township was our basic building block. It was a mistake to use the Township as our basic building block back then, we found out, because of some anomalies that we just didn't know about, then. But, like I say, the Precincts, as they've been reported to the Census Bureau, by the counties, will be the basic building block, and when we have the population down for the Precincts and on down to the block level.

Like we've said, this is one of the few multi-member districts that we have in the legislature anymore, is here in the Hot Springs area. I don't know if we got anybody here from Hot Springs or not; I assume we do. But, that's one of the things that we would like to hear about, and that's -- that's one of the reasons for this forum is to -- to give folks the opportunity to voice their opinion on those -- on that issue and any others that you'd like to state. And I'd also encourage you to use our web site. We've got a comments page on our web site that you can use to get in touch with us. If after you leave here, you have some ideas about things, you can go to that comments page and look at comments that folks

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

have already made and -- and make some yourself and post it on the web site. We're looking at those on a daily basis and compiling them and we report those factors to the State Board.

So, if anybody has any questions or comments, we'd be happy to hear them. Sir?

MR. BROWN: I'm Jim Brown. I see you left District 34 off.

MR. HUMPHRIES: Yeah, 34 should be with 33. I, obviously forgot it. The numbering is a little difficult when you're numbering -- when you're putting two (2) numbers in the same bounded area, but, yeah, that's 33 dash 34. And that should show up on our other map, but I don't -- yeah, it does -- 34 is in the lake there, but it's there.

MR. BUCK: Do you have any -- I wonder if there are any figures for how much you think it's going to change?

MR. HUMPHRIES: The only thing we have is what we handed out there. Those are the numbers from the Census Bureau, and I don't vouch for those, and I wouldn't put a great deal of stock in -- in what those numbers say. Those are estimates the Census Bureau made for July 1, 1999. I couldn't tell you, standing here, the methodology of getting those

instruments, although there are -- on the web site, you can link to -- to them through our web site, their -- their methodology is there.

MR. BUCK: The general trend, looks like, is still going to be rural to urban.

MR. HUMPHRIES: Yeah, now, that doesn't -- that does not reflect on that, because those are just county wide populations. So, you don't know that yet. I think the trend in Arkansas that those numbers shows, it's kind of obvious, there's a big population gains in Northwest Arkansas, primarily, Benton and Washington County, somewhat, especially, and Crawford County. And in Central Arkansas, the perimeter counties surrounding Pulaski County. And holding steady, you know, in -- in some sections of the state. Southwest Arkansas, those counties are pretty much holding steady, and then there's a pretty significant loss in some counties in the south counties. But, I mean, obviously, a big gain by taking thirty-eight percent (38%) getting the population in Benton County and maybe even more than that. I can't remember off the top -- it's a pretty significant population this year. So, in they're expecting that -- obviously, that's going to impact on the way the districts are drawn. When you think

about it, when your district's here, the average district size is going to have to go from the twenty-three, five (23,500) to about twenty-five, five (25,500). So, it's going to have to -- there's going to be two thousand (2,000) more people in each district. And when you think about how Northwest Arkansas is going to change, as a result of the population gains, and how the Delta in south Arkansas is going to change, as a result of population losses, that's got a ripple effect. Those two (2) factors really are going to affect the -- the shape of, probably every district in the state.

MR. DIGGS: Is there -- if the population shift is been from the Delta to the Northwest, does that mean the districts are going to actually go from West to East, possibly, when they expand, or how would we do that; do --

MR. HUMPHRIES: No, that's --

MR. DIGGS: -- (INAUDIBLE)?

MR. HUMPHRIES: -- not necessarily so. I think, the way the districts -- you know, the shape of the districts and how the ripple effects it, probably has more to do with where the Board chooses to start, and that's a decision that hasn't been made yet. But, I don't really think it matters. I mean, --

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

MR. DIGGS: When will -- when will there be some preliminary projections on how the districts, in general, will change, due to that?

MR. HUMPHRIES: We're looking at -- we get the numbers -- let's say the deadline for the numbers is April 1, and you get 'em then, we're looking at having a preliminary plan done by late May, at the earliest. Maybe, June, sometime. After which, we'll be coming out again, to have meetings like this. I can't promise it will be in Hot Springs, but it will be in the area. And we'll bring out the new proposed plan then, and allow folks a chance to look at it.

MR. CRANE: Would you give your name, please?

MR. DIGGS: Oh, Lewis Diggs. Sorry.

MR. HUMPHRIES: Sir?

MR. BROWN: You know, we worked pretty hard -- Jim Brown. We worked pretty hard during this election phase, and we met a lot of people in (INAUDIBLE), 33, and 34. And a lot of 'em, I'd say ninety-nine percent (99%) of the people didn't know there was two (2) districts.

MR. HUMPHRIES: Uh-huh.

MR. BROWN: And I think it's real confusing when we have two (2) districts. I understand there was some moods before, "Let's split it out." But it

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

didn't happen. What are the chances of having it split out this time?

MR. HUMPHRIES: Well, I think there is probably a pretty good chance if we hear from folks in this area that they don't want to have 'em. I -- I was around during the redistricting process last time, in 1991, and we had one of these meetings in Hot Springs and by far, the -- there weren't a lot of comments, but we had some, and just sort of weighing those comments it seemed like the folks who spoke, and that's primarily the leadership in Hot Springs, wanted to keep that multi-member district. You know? And so, that's kind of the way the Board went on it. They -- they heard -- heard from people that said that they want it. They liked the representation the way it was at that time. And -- and so, that's the way it was, but what the Board does this time is going to depend on what we hear from the folks in Hot Springs about it. Yes, ma'am?

MS. BROWN: I'm Twila Brown. Well, first of all, I'm -- I will say one thing, that is, I would like to see the districts split.

MR. HUMPHRIES: Okay.

MS. BROWN: I think the multi-member districts flow -- just flies in the face of what we have always

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

-- we have a representative, and as we said, it was very confusing. We really did run into this. Most people, even if they realize that they have two (2), don't realize they can vote for two (2). And I think that there -- there being disenfranchised because of it. But, I wanted to ask: You said that you, essentially, based that decision, based upon the leadership of Hot Springs?

MR. HUMPHRIES: We had a meeting like this, and I think, you know, the people who showed up were Mayors, and City Councilmen, and Chamber of Commerce types. You know? Those folks, and they were pretty much unanimous in what they told the Board at that time. That they wanted to have the multi --

MS. BROWN: I -- I guess it frustrates -- or, it's very dis -- dis -- I guess, frustrating to me, to think that, maybe, the leadership would have more say than every -- any other citizen. When you say -- quote that, that would indicate that one of the members of the Board of Directors would have more say than anybody here. And that -- that kind of -- of is -- is --

MR. HUMPHRIES: Every --

MS. BROWN: -- is distressing, to me, I guess.

MR. HUMPHRIES: Everybody was invited to comment

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

at the time, and you know, do -- all the comments that we got were, basically, from the leadership folks. And those people were in -- were in favor of it. You can't talk to every -- everybody personally.

MS. BROWN: I understand.

MR. HUMPHRIES: And it's not a situation where we can take a vote or anything like that. And this is -- this is, probably, the best we can do, is -- you know, to get out into the community and find out what people want. And we've got the extra added means of communication this time, I think, with the web site. And -- and we really hope that -- that people take advantage of that. And it's not only that but, you know, we've got -- by telephone, by mail, however you want to communicate with the Board. Those ave -- those avenues are there, and we -- and we invite it, you know, to hear from you. Sir?

MR. BAILEY: Sir, my name is Larry Bailey. I think I can add a little in-depth to this, 'cause I just ran for District 33, and I spent six (6) months walking door to door in this county. And I can assure you, straight up, ninety-five percent (95%) of the people out here do not understand that they're in

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

a dual district. It's one of the hardest things in the world to explain to people. Because I was often asked who I was running against, and when I would tell 'em they would say, "You're not running against so and so?" "Well, no, he's running in District 34, and I'm running in District 33." And they'd say, "Well, I don't understand; how can that be?" Believe me, I -- my guess is that I knocked on six thousand (6000) doors, which -- which goes out to about, probably twelve (12,000) or thirteen thousand (13,000) people. Twenty thousand, five hundred (20,500) people actually voted out of thirty-eight thousand (38,000) registered. It's a huge district, and it's -- it's very hard to get through the districts and meet all the people. And I spent from April to November, right up till the last day, working every day, trying to do that. But, the people don't understand that. That's, through no fault of their own reps or anything. I've been kind of active in politics and I understand a lot of things about it. Take me, for instance, I'm in Precinct 6A, City District 6, Justice of the Peace District 4, State Representative District 33 and 34, State Senate District 13, and U.S. Congressional District 4. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of the people

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

out here have no concept -- they don't even know what Precinct they're in, Mister. And then, when you complicate the thing by putting 33 and 34 in there, and having a dual district, it's even more confusing.

And I don't think it's a right representation to the general population out here, number one, to have that kind of a double district out here, let alone, how difficult it becomes for a representative to get around and meet all the people, they don't get the equal representation, I think, that a district where one individual is representing that whole group and spending more time in that area. I understand, you get two (2), but at the same time, we have -- you don't get the -- you don't get the contact with the people around here. Number two (2), Garland County, even ten (10) years ago, and prior to that, was much more urban than it is today. It's becoming more and more suburban as we go along. You have a couple of constituencies now that are not raised on many things. The city, in fact, after 1990, at one time, went out, and one of the things that they wanted to do was to start an annex and make the Hot Springs into a larger city, and they ran into a firestorm. So, you have two (2) distinct groups of people in this county, now. You have the urban group and you

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

have the suburban group. And although they worked together on many things, the rest is the time that they're opposed as to how they want to be represented at -- at that lower level. And that's a -- that's a diversion in interest that deserves a representation individually, how to be into the urban and the suburban members in -- in this county. Plus, the rural people. I think, if you'll look at Garland County, itself, it's pretty well divided right down the middle, between the city and the suburban's in town. The outside of the city is growing faster than the inside of the city is. If Hot Springs ever envisions getting bigger that's one thing they're going to have to do is annex. And one problem they've run into is every time they've started to annex they've run into too much opposition. Therefore, we've got two (2) diverse groups that -- in that 33/34. They probably ought to be split out so, that they -- they have their represent -- they -- the state that represents their -- their closer interest. So, those are two (2) very good reasons I think we need to divide this county up. And after walking through the whole thing, I can assure you, and I think it's in the best interest of most of the people out there.

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

MR. HUMPHRIES: Just by way of historical context, the multi-member district here in Garland County was in existence already when the Board of Apportionment drew the lines in 1990. It was one of five (5) multi-member districts that are included in the 1980 redistricting. The others being in Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Jonesboro, Pulaski County, and Crittenden County. In the 1990 hearings we went to all those cities, and the people in Fayetteville and Pulaski County were vehemently opposed -- well, Fayetteville, especially, and there was a lot of grass roots folks in Fayetteville came out, and expressed pretty strenuous opposition to the multi-member districts up there. And the same in -- in Pulaski County, although it was a foregone conclusion that we weren't going to have multi-member districts up in -- in Pulaski County, because of litigation. And the multi-member district in -- in Crittenden County had been eliminated, as a result of litigation in 1988. So, like I say, the Board listened to those communities, back there in 1990. And the Board's doing that now. And I'm glad to hear your comments like that. I mean, those are the things -- that's the kind of information that the Board needs to have.

Sir?

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

MR. BROADBENT: My name is Charlie Broadbent. I'm from Hot Springs, here, and I'm a representative of the Republican Committee, here, in Garland County. Actually, the Chairman. So, this past time that -- you know, going back to the elections, I heard that the redistricting would be made on blank issues. You know, the urban community -- rural versus urban. And there are some districts, not just 33 and 34 that are multi. You know? I think, truly, you need to get rid of that. I think that there is some confusion on the -- the -- just an ignorance of the process where the general population is not involved in this process all the time, that we just need some clearer, more precise lines on who their representative is. Garland County is a very high population of elderly, and it does, you know, clutter their -- their process of who you're supposed to vote for, and as they go to the booth on there. And then, also, the younger population that we have down here. To get them involved in the voting process and in -- in the political arena, I think we need to keep it simple for them, too, to understand what's going on and who, specifically their representative is, versus, you

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

know, having to -- two (2) candidates to possibly to support or -- or oppose. So, -- so, I think we do need to get rid of that. The second thing is, is if you look at State District 35, which encompasses part of Hot Springs Village, but then also goes down towards -- the majority of it's in Malvern, Arkansas. Based on the statements that you said before, in keeping similar areas together, you've got two (2) totally opposite areas encompassed in that one district right there. So, that's something I think you ought to look at. Also, you look at 32, that comes into -- to Hot Springs Village, also, but it also encompasses Garland County, but it also goes into the Glenwood area, down there. So, -- so, there's -- I think there's some -- some attention that needs to be paid to Garland County and surrounding areas, not just Garland County, itself. To encompass some of the same likes in certain populations. And Hot Springs has changed tremendously, which all you are aware of. Just in the past five (5) years we have seen an explosion of -- of growth in retail and construction of it, but also in the population end of it. So, we -- we have (INAUDIBLE) more divided. I was looking over these numbers. We have eighty-four thousand (84,000)

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

people in the county. If you figure there's thirty -- approximately, thirty thousand (30,000) people in the -- in the city, and another fifteen thousand (15,000) people in the village, that leave forty thousand (40,000) people in the -- in the suburban, you know, that this gentleman said. And there is a definite difference of opinion on how those two (2) coexist. So, you know, I think, definitely we need to look at separate legislative issues, but also kind of, you know, maybe taking the -- the -- 32 and putting that in with the 18 would, you know, to get the more rural tied together versus with the more subar -- suburban. Garland County is growing out in suburbs. It's not growing in the -- the city populous, and that's going to continue that way.

MR. REEVES: We did hear from the Glenwood people this morning. And they voiced that concern, that they wanted to be in a different district than the one they're currently in.

MR. BROADBENT: Well, you know their current representative lives in Hot Springs Village, which is two (2) hours away from -- from them, and it's a totally different concept. I mean, if you spend time in both of those areas, they -- they think totally different.

MR. HUMPHRIES: Anybody else?

MR. BUCK: Troy Buck. Just briefly, you're going to come up with the original plan from the information you get in these areas, the court documents and things you've got to do, then you're going to come back and do this process over and see if anybody likes it?

MR. REEVES: Well, based on the new numbers, yeah, right.

MR. HUMPHRIES: Well, and we're pretty sure nobody's going to like it, too.

MR. REEVES: We decline to use the word "like"; we try to use the word "satisfy".

MR. HUMPHRIES: Yeah. As our experience is, nobody likes it. But --

MR. BUCK: What is the deadline that you have to do this by?

MR. HUMPHRIES: Well, the Arkansas Constitution says that we have to be finished by February 1, 2000 (sic), which is before we get the Census data. So, -- I'm -- I'm just being smart there. That's what the constitution says, but it's long established that we don't have to finish by that deadline. We're looking at October, first of October in 2001 to finish it up. If -- if we can get some preliminary

plans drawn, you know, late spring, we can start out (INAUDIBLE) and then, have some Board meetings -- actual Board meetings in Little Rock toward the end of the summer.

MR. BUCK: Did I hear you say that there would be some credence given to term limits?

MR. REEVES: Encompassing is something you take into -- can take into account. Some of these other interest might override that, but it just depends on -- on -- some of these -- I guess, how many -- I mean, the term limits, that will help some. But, you take that into consideration, yes, you do.

MR. HUMPHRIES: In every redistricting, up until this one, we've had members of the legislature in both Houses, who had been there forever, and who, at least in their minds, thought they were going to be there forever.

MR. BUCK: And will be.

MR. REEVES: Yeah.

MR. HUMPHRIES: You, obviously, don't have that situation. Of course, you know, a Senate Seat's going to last the entire decade. So, that's a different kind of issue, but -- right, I -- I think because of term limits, though, encompassing may have less importance on it.

MR. BUCK: Will there be effort to get some Senate Districts and House Districts more aligned? Like this District 18 goes from Malvern and (INAUDIBLE) over to -- half way across Oklahoma -- Colorado.

MR. REEVES: We tried to do that last time. I mean, I sat down, and at the computer, and tried to do that last time, and found out that it's impossible when you have thirty-five (35) Senate Districts and a hundred (100) House Districts, you couldn't -- given the population and quality standards that you've got to meet, it just can't be done.

MR. BUCK: There will be some effort made, if it's equal and reasonable, then there will be put together, though, right?

MR. REEVES: You mean like have three (3) House Seats inside of -- let's say boundaries as a Senate Seat?

MR. BUCK: No.

MR. REEVES: That's -- again, that's what I tried to do.

MR. BUCK: Like this one that goes plum across here. If there's a way to pull this back in together.

MR. REEVES: Oh, okay.

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

MR. BUCK: To get it -- (INAUDIBLE) made it five (5) Senate Districts -- by just being two (2).

MR. HUMPHRIES: Right. Yeah, that's the kind of thing that, you know, we're interested in hearing from you all. I mean, y'all want it -- because the way that district was drawn was a direct result of trying to preserve the core of that --

MR. REEVES: That -- that's the way the district had to renegotiate --

MR. HUMPHRIES: -- 80's and the 70's --

MR. REEVES: (INAUDIBLE).

MR. HUMPHRIES: -- and the 60's. Right. Right. And -- and -- it was the same representatives back in the 60's. So, yeah, I mean it's -- sure, that's what we want to hear from folks. If -- if they're just satisfied with that now, that's kind of what we need to know. Does that not encompass a community of interest that could be doing better?

MR. BUCK: We're -- we're -- we've been tickled to death with our representation. We never know what -- we've sat down in Glenwood -- in that area we're sitting on -- just got a -- in Amity we're on the edge of whatever it is all those years in some other direction, and we get shifted pretty regular by the time, seem like, (INAUDIBLE).

MR. HUMPHRIES: What you've got to keep in mind is that when you go to square a district like 18 we -- if you -- when you go to square that up, it's going to have a drastic effect on, not only every district in the area, when you're talking about finding two thousand (2,000) more people for each district, but I mean, all over the map. And the same happens in the Delta.

MR. BUCK: I don't want your job.

MR. HUMPHRIES: Yes, sir?

MR. BUCK: I just want to bitch about it.

MR. BROWN: Jim Brown, again. Is there a possibility that there will be more, since we have -- the population is more, there will be more State and represented districts?

MR. HUMPHRIES: No, sir. The constitution sets the number of districts at one hundred (100). Representatives at thirty-five (35).

MR. BROWN: It will just increase the population in the districts.

MR. REEVES: What the increase of population does, it just makes each district get a little bigger.

MR. BROWN: Yeah.

MR. REEVES: Either land wise or people wise.

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

And the disparity between, let's say we have a district that has twenty-six, five (26,500) in it, as opposed to twenty-five, five (25,500), for whatever reason, the disparity statewide can -- has to be less than ten percent (10%). That -- the last time they tried to get as close to the five percent (5%) Varsity as they could. Both plus and minus. And I think it was nine point seven (9.7) something statewide. The Supreme Court has said that's, probably, okay. If you keep it under ten percent (10%), because it's very difficult -- to get every district with twenty-five thousand, five hundred (25,500) people in it is just very difficult. You split towns, you split counties, you split everything to try to do that. So, in trying not to do that, sometimes you'll incorporate the edge of DeQueen, let's say, to a district, so they aren't stuck out in the middle of nowhere with somebody else. And that -- that makes it much more difficult when we have to try to squeeze twenty-five thousand, five hundred (25,500) people within a district over rural areas and city areas. It makes it difficult.

MR. BROWN: That's a problem I can see.

MS. BROWN: What -- what you said is that you -- the city -- you try -- you're going to try to keep

together? Now, -- now, Little Rock and some of these others you've had to split.

MR. REEVES: Yes, we can't because they're too big.

MS. BROWN: So, why -- why would that --

MR. REEVES: But, let's say, for, like, DeQueen, they were split last time, because of Township lines, and nobody really knew DeQueen was split. Part of the town was in one district, part went to the other one. It really doesn't make any sense to split it when it's a small as --

MS. BROWN: I -- I -- I can see that small of an area.

MR. REEVES: Right.

MS. BROWN: But, now --

MR. REEVES: But, bigger towns --

MS. BROWN: -- Hot Springs with it's thirty to thirty-five --

MR. REEVES: See, you're going to --

MS. BROWN: -- thousand (35,000), you --

MR. REEVES: -- have to split that, because you've got to have twenty-five, five (25,500) --

MS. BROWN: Right.

MR. REEVES: -- in each district. So, you'll have to split that. Figure out -- trying to figure

out a natural split, if you don't want multi-members, is going to be a difficult thing in Hot Springs. I mean, you can kind of see some boundaries, lake boundaries, or highway boundaries, or something, city limit boundaries, perhaps, but you're going to have to split Hot Springs, because it's got more than twenty-five, five (25,500).

MR. HUMPHRIES: I think, obviously, and this is no defense of multi-member districts, I see how this is going. But, obviously, that's the reason you have a multi-member district in a city like Hot Springs, or Fayetteville, or West Memphis, because the city size. You're just barely too big, you know, to be a district all by itself, but the feeling -- the sentiment in the community, at one point in time, was that they wanted to keep the city together. Anybody else?

MR. REEVES: Thank y'all for coming, and we hope to see y'all next spring, next summer, when we're back. It will be easier if y'all will log onto the web site, sometime after April, or even in March, and start looking and see what's on there. The plans will be on there as soon as we get them drafting. So, you can start critiquing them, and doing whatever you need to do.

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

MR. HUMPHRIES: We're also going to attempt to get a map to each county Courthouse for everyone to look at.

MR. REEVES: Thank y'all for coming.

(**THEREUPON**, and there being no further discussion, the meeting concluded at 3:45 p.m.)

(SIGN IN SHEET ATTACHED HERE)

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

COUNTY OF HOT SPRING)

I, **Laura L. Carnahan**, a Certified Court Reporter, and a notary public in and for the aforesaid county and state, do hereby certify that I recorded all of the proceedings held at the PUBLIC MEETING held by THE SECRETARY OF THE STATES' OFFICE, on November 28, 2000, at the Garland County Community College, 101 College Drive, Hot Springs, Arkansas, 71913, by Stenomask, and that it was thereafter reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision; that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings that were held to the best of my understanding and ability.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 12th day of December, 2000.

LAURA L. CARNAHAN, CCR, LS# 569,
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:
June 11, 2008

Laura L. Carnahan, CCR (501)332-4861

